



Approved 02-08-05

KING COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2005

EXCHANGE BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM 6A

Members Present: Melody Cecilia James, Helen Nilon, James Nobles, Ron Sterling, Clifford Thurston, Gwendolyn Williams

Members Absent: Joshua Freed (excused), Howard Miller (excused), Eleanor Owen (excused)

Guests Present: Linda Brown (KCASAAB); Allan Panitch (board nominee); Pam Pratt (private citizen); Silvia Singer (VCCC); Eugene Wan (board nominee); Nancy Witherbee (board applicant)

Staff Present: Steve Collins, Rhoda Naguit, Jean Robertson

I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Board Chair Ron Sterling convened the meeting at 4:34 p.m. and asked everyone to introduce him/herself.

II. MINUTES

An error on the date of the meeting was noted. The meeting date should be December 14, 2004.

Jim Nobles then made a motion that was seconded by Melody Cecilia James to approve the December 14, 2004 meeting minutes as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

III. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Advocacy Opportunities

NAMI Day in Olympia will be held on Monday, January 17th at St. John's Episcopal Church, located at 19th and Capital Way in Olympia from 8:30am to 3:30pm. This is an opportunity for the board to meet with legislators and join with advocates from throughout the State. This is an opportunity to influence the 2005 Legislative process on important mental health funding and policy issues.

NAMI is sponsoring a NAMI Walk in Washington State in May 2005 in support for NAMI's efforts to improve services and to end discrimination for mentally ill persons. For further information, you may access their website at www.namiwalks-wa.org or contact NAMI Greater Seattle at (206) 783-9264.

NAMI Eastside is sponsoring a free education forum on January 18, 2005 at 7:00pm at Evergreen Hospital, Suite Tan 100, 12303 NE 13th Lane in Kirkland. Barbara Isenhour will present "Estate Planning and Wills" which include Medicaid planning, estate planning, special needs trusts, probate and trust administration, guardianship, and consulting with personal injury attorneys.

Clifford Thurston will do a presentation with Lisa Brown in Olympia regarding the consumer-run services bill.

B. Biographical Profile for Board Members

Board Chair Sterling passed out copies of a template for board biographical profile. He asked board members to fill out the form and return it to him either by email or by postal mail.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Legislative Advocacy & Public Affairs Committee

The Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs Committee met on January 5, 2005. Only three board members were able to attend the meeting. The feedback received from the recently concluded legislative forum was very positive. It was also noted that most of the legislators in attendance, including some Republicans, were supportive of mental health parity legislation.

The next Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 26th. The committee will continue to evaluate the outcome of the Legislative Forum and address pending legislation affecting mental health and substance abuse issues.

B. Nominations Committee

Board applicant Nancy Dow-Witherbee, who has attended three board meetings, will be interviewed by the Nominations Committee on February 8, 2005 prior to the regular board meeting.

Eugene Wan asked about the status of the advocacy group who expressed interest to be part of the board. Helen said that she has contacted them but have yet to hear from them.

C. Quality Council

Helen Nilon reported that future meetings of the Council will focus on law and justice initiatives to be presented by Dave Murphy; a presentation on the suicide study by Sharon Farmer and Jo Moore; and a review of the MH Quarterly Report Card.

D. Recovery Initiatives Committee

No report at this time.

E. Goals and Priorities Committee

The Goals and Priorities Ad Hoc Committee submitted a list of recommendations of goals and priorities to the board for review, discussion, and potential approval.

Jean Robertson recommended adding "Advocate for sufficient state funding for non-Medicaid services" under the Legislative and Advocacy priorities list.

Linda Brown suggested selecting the top four priorities/goal recommendations. The board readily agreed. A vote was taken on every item of recommendations. The result of the votes is as follows, according to order:

1. Support mental health parity initiatives at local and state levels.
2. Advocate for sufficient funding for State only dollars with the pending loss of non-Medicaid funding.
3. Advocate for suspending liquidated damages to RSNs for state hospital bed use. Advocate for ramping-up expanding community services in communities before downsizing hospitals.
4. Support consumer-run services initiatives, the consumer-run service bill including clubhouse and peer-to-peer counseling. Support more funding and more support for supported employment for those with serious mental illness.

V. STAFF REPORT

A. Letter to Karl Brimner

Jean distributed copies of the letter that Board Chair Ron Sterling sent to Karl Brimner, Director of Mental Health Division regarding liquidation damage, and a response letter from Western State Hospital Director, Andy Philips.

Amnon Shoenfeld, MHCADSD Division Director, wrote a clarification letter to Mr. Phillips on December 20, 2004. The Division has not received a response from him.

B. CMS Changes Implementation Update

RSNs received notification from the state that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has agreed to delay implementation of the changes in the terms and conditions for use of Medicaid funds until July 2005. It is expected that there will be competition for State dollars so the Board needs to continue to advocate for funding for services.

Jean said that she just learned today that Tim Eyman has put out another initiative which calls for more audits to be conducted. She does not have the details of the initiative. Jean stated that the Division undergoes about six audits yearly, which is cumbersome to the staff and adds to administrative costs system-wide. The Division has just finished an audit by the EQRO. We received six corrective actions which should be addressed and corrected no later than March 2005. The State contract compliance audit has just been conducted. The Division received one corrective action. There are three more pending audits that the Division has to undergo.

Linda Brown asked if the board could do something to educate the public on the impact of additional audit. Among these are the cost on staff's time, gathering documentation, and other administrative costs. The public needs to know/hear both sides of the issue before making a decision. Eugene wondered if this issue is something to be handled by the Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs or by the board.

C. Non-Medicaid Allocation

The Division had suspended the non-Medicaid allocation due to implementation of the CMS rule changes. With the delay in implementation of the changes the decision was made to release a first quarter non-Medicaid allocation. Letters to agencies receiving non-Medicaid allocations were just sent out last Friday.

The Division is convening work groups to develop strategies for implementing new services. Supported Employment is one of the new Medicaid services. Perry Wein has been hired temporarily to work on this project to develop our mental health employment and recovery initiatives.

D. Children's Mental Health Plan Update

The Children's Mental Health Plan was released last month. Comments are certainly welcomed. An RFP on Children's Crisis Services was released in conjunction with the Plan. The focus of the Children's Crisis RFP is professionals partnering with parents and less dependence on hospitalization. A Bidder's Conference will be held next Tuesday. The deadline for submission of responses to the RFP is February 10, 2005.

Helen Nilon expressed concerns about the timing of the release of the Children's Crisis RFP when the Plan is still in draft form. Jean responded that the program will be evaluated on its effectiveness; revisions will be made based on the evaluation.

Melody Cecilia James questioned the effectiveness of parent's involvement in the entire treatment process of a child. She does not think this is a realistic approach. She suggested limiting the involvement of parents to certain areas or periods of treatment. There are kids whose parents who may be chemically dependent and not willing to change. The parent-involvement model is ideal if a child comes from a healthy family. But for a child who comes from a dysfunctional family, this approach might not be workable or realistic.

Jean responded that individualized, tailored care for kids is the emphasis of the Plan. The practices that are being promoted are best practices that have been recognized nationally and demonstrated to be effective in 60 study sites throughout the country. If families are not included in treatment then there is no opportunity to improve family functioning. A component of services is parent training. The visitors the Board had two months ago clearly articulated how important it was to be involved in the care of their children and be helped as families.

Allan Panitch inquired how foster kids will benefit from this program. Jean said that under the plan, the Division intends to provide services which will stabilize the child where he or she is.

There was a discussion on how evidence based and best practices interact. Evidence based practices (EBPs) are those that have been proven effective through rigorous controlled studies. They are limited in number and target specific populations. Best, or promising practices, have been evaluated and have been shown to be effective but have not been studied with the same rigor as EBPs. It is important to keep in mind that we have a lot of experience with a variety of services that are known to be effective and the intent of the plan is to encourage broader adoption of those practices throughout the system.

VI. LIAISON REPORTS

Howard Miller, Downtown Emergency Service Center

Not present to report.

Helen Nilon, Seattle Mental Health and Partnership Group

No report on Seattle Mental Health at this time.

The Partnership group focused on the benefits and extension of CMS implementation; there was a discussion on recovery assessment depending on TELESAGE; and the coverage of people in IMD.

Clifford Thurston, Consumer Operated Program

Clifford reported that he has been meeting with representatives from Rose House. They are looking into expanding the program. Rose House is also putting together information packet on how program could reduce hospitalization in Pierce County. There was a question on how to implement B3. Jean responded that a work group is tasked to study this issue. Clifford asked that the board members be included in the work group. There was also a suggestion to come up with a definition of a "clubhouse." Steve Collins said that there are four certified clubhouses in Washington State. There are no certified clubhouses in King County. However, there are several potential clubhouses in King County which include Emerald, a clubhouse run by SMH, those run by Community Psychiatric Clinic Center (CPC) under the clubhouse model (Wallingford House), another facility in Northgate, Rainbow Creek, and Clean Start Program in Belltown.

VII. BOARD AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS/NEW BUSINESS

No Board and Community concerns/new business at this time.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Prepared by:

Attested by:

Rhoda A. Naguit
Recording Secretary

Ron Sterling
Board Chair